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*Vietnam:

South Vietnam: Buddhist and student agitators apparently are intent on following up the demonstrations last Sunday with at least three more days of disturbances.

Militant Buddhist leader Thich Tri Quang reportedly has issued a communiqué to his followers announcing that a march on Independence Palace in Saigon by some 500 monks is planned for 28 September. The communiqué also calls on militant followers to stage similar marches on provincial headquarters the following day.

25X1 [redacted] student demonstrators will join in the disturbances. The agitators may hope that their antigovernment protests will influence the Provisional National Assembly vote on the validity of the election.

The first hurdle in obtaining that vote apparently has been cleared. The government's Central Election Council reported to the assembly on 25 September that it did not have sufficient evidence to substantiate the election complaints. Although there are rumors that a second group, the assembly's special election committee, will recommend invalidation of the election, it is likely that the full assembly will vote for approval prior to the 2 October deadline set by the election laws.

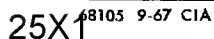
US Marines at Con Thien underwent the heaviest barrage of the war on 25 September. Two Marines were killed, 50 seriously wounded, and 152 others lightly wounded when Communist forces hit the position with more than 1,000 rounds of mortar, artillery, and rocket fire. Con Thien has been the target of heavy enemy shelling for the last three weeks. A daily average of over 350 rounds has fallen on the post during the past seven days.

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Other US positions in Quang Tri Province have come under enemy fire. On the 25th, the amphibious base at Cua Viet, the Marine outpost at the "Rock-pile," and the airport at Quang Tri city all suffered light damage. On the 26th, 725 artillery and mortar rounds were fired at an ARVN battalion 12 miles north of Quang Tri city and 165 rounds were fired at elements of two US Marine battalions located in the vicinity of Con Thien.

North Vietnam: Hanoi's first response to Ambassador Goldberg's UN speech adds up to a flat rejection of the latest US proposals for starting talks. A 25 September Nhan Dan editorial claims the US is still seeking reciprocal action from the North Vietnamese in return for a halt in the bombing. The editorial called for an "unconditional" halt in the attacks and other "acts of war" against North Vietnam if the US "really wants to talk."

The editorial took an extremely hard line on Hanoi's propositions for a settlement of the war, calling for recognition of the Four Points, withdrawal of US forces, and recognition of the Liberation Front as the "sole representative" of the South Vietnamese people. (Map)

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South Arabia: Progress has been made in bringing together the principal rival nationalist groups, but prospects for an early settlement are still dim.

Leaders of the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen (FLOSY) and the National Liberation Front (NLF) have announced they will meet in Cairo beginning on 3 October to discuss the formation of a transitional government. They called for a cease-fire, but it remains to be seen whether it will be effective.

The exclusion of all other South Arabian political groups from the discussions will upset the Saudis, who have been seeking a more broadly-based government.

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NOTES

Guyana: The resignation of Finance Minister D'Aguiar has eased the three-week-old government crisis. D'Aguiar's party, the United Force, plans to remain in the government, and Prime Minister Burnham has agreed to rearrange the cabinet so the party will retain three ministries. The United Force is generally bitter over past "mistreatment" and with D'Aguiar out of the government he and his party may be even more difficult for Burnham to manage.

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*Nigeria: Federal forces have advanced within 10 miles of Enugu. First attempts by defending Biafran troops to dislodge them from the heights above Enugu failed on the night of 25 September. The battle for the Ibo capital is likely to go on for sometime however, as Biafran resistance appears to be stiffening.

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